†4026. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the construction work at Habibganj railway station of Bhopal is likely to be completed, as per the original project; and

(b) whether any time-period has been fixed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Construction of Habibganj station has already been completed as per original plan.

(b) Does not arise.

Corporatisation of Railways

4027. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Rakesh Mohan Committee's recommendation to corporatise the Railways has been rejected by the Ministry of Railways;

(b) if so, the main seasons therefor;

(c) whether the expert group has suggested conversion of Indian Railways into an Indian Railway Corporation, if the Railways were to improve their financial and service performance; and

(d) if so, what other steps the Railway have taken to improve the financial and Service performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. The Committee of officers examining the Report is yet to submit their views.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes, Sir

(d) Other steps being taken for improving the financial and service perform ance include the following:

(i) Tap non-traditional sources of revenue, e.g. commercial utilisation of land, commercial publicity etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(ii) Arrange financial participation of State Governments/private sector organisations for implementation of specific projects.

(iii) Attract new traffic by adopting a number of new strategies like rationalisation of freight structure, providing incentives, etc.

(iv) Cut down operational and production costs to improve the Railways functioning at the grass-root level like better manpower management, cost cutting, cost control and austerity measures, containing staff cost by controlling fresh intake, bench marking of activities.

(v) Improvements in the productivity of assets through optimal utilisation of assets.

(vi) Direct purchase of power from NTPC.

Plying of Bhopal-Durg Amarkantak Express

†4028. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received some representation from commuters for daily plying of Bhopal-Durg Amarkantak Express (8253/8254) via Jabalpur and Rajkot-Jabalpur Express (1269/1270) trains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have considered these representations;

(d) if so, by when Government have decided to run these trains everyday; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some representations including from Shri P.K. Maheshwari MP have been received.

(c) to (e) It is proposed to extend 1269/1270 Rajkot-Bhopal Express upto Jabalpur via Bina-Katni (two days a week) and to increase the frequency of 1463/1464 Rajkot-Jabalpur Express from 4 days a week to five days a week (by extending 1269/1270 Rajkot-Bhopal Express upto Jabalpur via Itarsi once a week) during 2002-2003. The above arrangement will provide daily service

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi